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COUNTRY Israel/Palestine

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SUBJECT Formation of League of the Friends of Liberty
by the Israeli Communist Party

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X6

1. The Israeli Communist Party held a general assembly in Tel Aviv on 24-27 September 1948 for the purpose of discussing the formation of a "League of the Friends of Liberty."
2. The meetings were attended by 37 delegates from Communist cells and sections, plus 20 foreign "advisers." Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa each sent five representatives. The following cell chiefs were present: Rubenstein and Jabotinsky from Jerusalem, Arazi, Iv. Kahn and Jac. Levy from Tel Aviv, Hana Halabi and Georges S. Khuri from Haifa. Six representatives were sent from Galilee, three from the Negeb, and twelve from other towns, according to an official report which source claims was found on a soldier who was captured by the Egyptians. The delegate from Herzlia was unable to reach Tel Aviv for the meetings. Most of the "advisers" were members of the Stern Gang, notably the following "Chiefs of the Hundreds": Captains N. Levy, Jac. Horowitz, Isr. Man, Moise Lazar, Ig. Borissenko, Nathan Orloff and Liliith Passevitz. Two Greek Communists, Elefteri Crissos and Dimitri Argyropoulos, came from Cyprus to attend. The Israeli Minister of the Interior sent Moise Calman, described by source as an inspector-general, to attend the meetings as observer.
3. J. Arazi, chief of the division of the Commissariat of Industry and Commerce, who was introduced to the assembly by Ivan Rubenstein, stated that it was essential that the "democrats, progressives, and sympathizers of all classes and races" form a united front of "Friends of Liberty." Another speaker stated, in English, the following aims of the proposed League:
 - a. Coordination of the activities of the workers and peasants to obtain the right to bread, liberty, and the protection of their children.
 - b. Struggle against foreign imperialism under the aegis of the invincible Red Army.

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- c. Conclusion of an agreement with the other communist parties in Eastern Mediterranean countries.

A fourth aim, which was not written into the official declaration or the official report, concerned the establishment of a "combat group," which would be modeled after the Nazi SS groups and which would accept as members all militant Marxists. The above listed aims were discussed in various speeches, including some which were delivered in Arabic.

4. With regard to the coordination of the activities of the workers and peasants (see paragraph 3a above), it was decided to establish reciprocal liaison agents with the Communist Parties of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, and Cyprus, and to make the first contact between these agents at the celebration of the anniversary of the October Revolution. The much publicized celebration was held at the Soviet Legation in Beirut. Antun Tabit, Qazan and a third militant Communist remained afterward for a meeting in the office of Victor Khangulov, Soviet Chargé d'Affaires. It was decided at this meeting to make all possible efforts to have the ban lifted on the publication of Sawt al-Sha'b, Yoghovurti Tsain, and Aravod, which were suspended in Lebanon, and al-Zaman, suspended in Syria, as well as on Fata al-Arab and Liwa al-Istiqlal, suspended in Iraq. (Comment. Aravod recently reappeared briefly, but was promptly suppressed.)

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5. Decisions reached by the general assembly were sent to the Communist Parties of Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria, and to the progressives of Turkey, Egypt, and Iran. At the same time the Israeli Communist Party announced that the next meeting of the constituent assembly of the League of the Friends of Liberty would be held on 10-15 December 1948 and that its supreme soviet for 1949 would be elected at this meeting.
6. Source states that the first result of the meeting of the general assembly was the creation of the "Rocket" group, an enlistment bureau which has been functioning since 1 October in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nathania, Herzlia, and Manara. Source states that an estimated 1,800 young Communists have already enrolled, and that propaganda is being spread that 250 girls are fighting in this division (sic). Fighters from this group who have been taken prisoner in Galilee have been identified by the red star and light blue seal of Solomon, which is inscribed with an inscription of four Hebrew letters.

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